AN ARABIST'S GUIDE TO EGYPTIAN COLLOQUIAL

by

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To Margaret Sears

Preface

Arriving in Cairo for the first time in June 1971, I had two years of Arabic study to my credit, yet I was unable to say anything or understand more than a word here and there. Like so many other students of modern Written Arabic, I was unprepared to deal with the language that Arabs actually speak. To master the Cairene dialect, I acquired a battery of grammars and attended classes at the Center for Arabic Study Abroad. Despite excellent teachers, I found the task a frustrating one, for all the manuals assumed no knowledge at all of Arabic and started at the beginning. But I already knew Written Arabic and needed only to learn what adjustments to make to speak the Egyptian colloquial.

How sensible it would be, I often reflected, if someone prepared a handbook of Egyptian colloquial for those of us already trained in Written Arabic. So often did I bemoan the absence of such a book that my friends eventually insisted that I undertake the project myself. I wrote the book during my final months in Cairo, in the spring of 1973. The grammar then languished for eight years in a back drawer, as I turned my attention to other matters.

Then Dr. James A. Snow of the Foreign Service Institute at the Department of State expressed an interest in publishing this study; he also agreed to provide some editorial advice and assistance. Then, when no one else was available to prepare the manuscript for publication, he did this too. For his many efforts, I am very grateful and am much in his debt. Any errors that may yet remain are, of course, my responsibility alone.

For purposes of brevity, I assume a thorough knowledge of Written Arabic and only point out the ways in which the dialect differs; to do otherwise would defeat the purpose of this manual. "Egyptian" is shorthand for Egyptian colloquial Arabic as spoken in Cairo by persons with some education.

D.P.

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CHAPTER ONE

PRONUNCIATION

1. Consonants

Arabic	English	Comments
ء	'	(1) when beginning a word it is not pronounced

(2) in the middle of a word it is pronounced as a glottal stop only before a long vowel, C'VV or V'VV (but not VV'VV, see below)

a	القرآن	*al-q̇ur'aan*	'Koran'
u	رؤوس	*ru'uus*	'heads'

In the cases V'C or V'V the glottal stop drops out and lengthens the preceeding vowel.

a	رأس	*ra's*	راس	*raas*	'head'
i	بئر	*bi'r*	بير	*biir*	'well'
u	مؤمن	*mu'min*	مومن	*muumin*	'believer'

Following a long vowel (VV'V or VV'VV) the glottal stop changes to ي *ya* or occasionally to و *waw*.

a	قراءة	*q̇araa'a*	قراية	*q̇araaya*	'reading'
i	عائز	*9aa'iz*	عايز	*9aayiz*,	'wants'
			عاوز	*9aawiz*	

(3) at the end of a word the glottal stop drops out

دواء	*dawaa'*	دوا	*dawa*	'medicine'

ب	b	
ت	t	
ث	t, s	the pronunciation is not predictably t or s
ج	g	g as in 'good', although in upper Egypt it is like j in 'jam'
ح	H	
خ	x	
د	d	
ذ	d, z	the pronunciation is not predictably d or z
ر	r	
ز	z	
س	s	
ش	š	
ص	ṣ	
ض	ḍ, ẓ, z	the pronunciation is not predictable
ط	ṭ	
ظ	ẓ, z, ḍ	the pronunciation is not predictable
ع	9	
غ	ɣ	
ق	q	generally pronounced as a glottal stop, though some words retain the literary *qaf* sound; when a word must be pronounced with the *qaf* sound, it will be transliterated with a dot above the *qaf*, as in the following:

القرآن	al-q̇ur'aan	'the Koran'
القاهرة	al-q̇aahira	'Cairo'
قاموس	q̇amuus	'dictionary'
قسم	q̇ism	'section'
قطعة	q̇iṭ9a	'piece'
قانون	q̇anuun	'law'

ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n

ه *h*
و *w*
ي *y*

Occasionally a letter is pronounced differently with different meanings:

ثاني	*taani*	'second' (as in 'first, second')
ثانية	*saniya*	'second' (time unit)
قوي	*qawi*	'strong'
قوي	*qawi*	'much, a lot'

2. Vowels

A. Short Vowels

َ *a* or *e* when the sound is like the *a* in 'woman' it may be written *e*.

احمد *'aHmed* 'Ahmad'

ِ *i*
ُ *u*

B. Long Vowels

ا *aa*
ي *ii*
و *uu*

Note: Long vowels are sometimes pronounced as short vowels. See section 3.C for details.

C. <u>Dipthongs</u>

...يَ   <u>ay</u> or <u>e</u> the dipthong sound occasionally remains

ايوه	<u>*'aywa*</u>	'yes'
كويس	<u>*kwayyis*</u>	'good'

though it usually becomes <u>ee</u>

ذيل	<u>*deel*</u>	'tail'

...وَ   <u>*aw*</u>, <u>*oo*</u> this may also remain a dipthong

موضوع	<u>*mawḍuu9*</u>	'subject'
فوضى	<u>*fawḍa*</u>	'chaos'
لو	<u>*law*</u>	'if'

though it usually changes to <u>*oo*</u>

موز	<u>*mooz*</u>	'bananas'

The other dipthong combinations rarely occur and when they do they remain dipthongized.

3. Vowel Patterns and Syllable Shifts

Egyptian is characterized by a sequence of rather complex vowel shifts which evolved out of speaking habits. Although difficult to learn at first, they do make the language flow much more smoothly than does the literary, and they <u>are</u> predictable.

A. The Phonetic 'i'

An *i* is added between the second and third consonants of a cluster, whether in a single word or two.

one word	بعدما	*ba9d-i-ma*	'after'
two words	ست كويسة	*sitt-i-kwayyisa*	'a good woman'

B. Ellision of Short Vowels

(1) The initial short vowel of a word drops when the preceding word ends in a vowel or there is a preceding phonetic *i*.

preceding word	كرسي البنت	*kursi-l-bint*	'the girl's chair'
phonetic *i*	بعد اغسطس	*ba9d-i-ɣusṭus*	'after August'

Note: *i* and *u* fall out much more frequently than does *a*. This rule only governs words beginning with short open syllables.

(2) The ~~final~~ vowel of the last syllable is elided when a suffix with an initial vowel is added.

verb	لبس ، لبسوا	*libis*, *libsu*	'he, they dress'
participle	عارف ، عارفة	*9aarif*, *9arfa*	'he, she knows'
adjective	كامل ، كاملة	*kaamil*, *kamla*	'complete'(m,f)
noun	كاتب ، كاتبين	*kaatib*, *katbiin*	'writer, writers'

(3) Unstressed short *a* and *u* are sometimes pronounced as *i*. This is regularly the case with the feminine noun ending in a construct phrase (*iḍaafa*):

عربية الدكتور *9arabiyyit-id-doktuur* 'the doctor's car'

C. Long Vowels

Long vowels shorten as follows:

aa becomes *a*
ee and *ii* become *i*
oo and *uu* become *u*

These changes take place:

(1) before two consonants:

كاتب ، كاتبين *kaatib*, *katbiin* 'writer, writers'

(2) when unstressed (see section 4 for rules). This means that normally there can only be one long vowel in a word.

صاحب ، صاحبنا *ṣaáHib*, *ṣaHíbna* 'friend, her friend'

(3) at the end of words (as in Written Arabic)

قاضي *qaaḍi* 'judge'
طلبوا *ṭalabu* 'they asked'

4. Stress

Stress in Egyptian Arabic is always on one of the last three syllables. Long vowels always receive the stress.

A. The Penultimate Syllable

The penultimate (next-to-last) syllable usually receives the stress.

عربية	*9arabíyya*	'car'
اولا	*'awwálan*	'at first'

B. The Antepenultimate Syllable

The antepenultimate (second before last) syllable receives the stress if there are no long vowels or consonant clusters in the word.

طلبه	*ṭálabu*	'he asked for him'
اعتقده	*a9táqidu*	'I consider him'

'She' in the perfect tense does not follow this rule:

طلبته *ṭalabítu* 'she asked him'

C. The Final Syllable

The final syllable receives the stress if it has a long vowel in a closed syllable or if it ends in two consonants.

long vowel	اعلان	*'i9laán*	'announcement'
two consonants	لبست	*libíst*	'I got dressed'

In exceptional cases, a word has two long vowels, both of which are stressed:

خداروات	*xudaárawaát*	'vegetables'
مخابرات	*muxaábaraát*	'intelligence (services)'

5. Other Changes

A. Word Order

Egyptian word order resembles that in English. In Written Arabic the subject, if expressed, precedes the verb.

Written	جهز الطباخ الاكل	*jahhaz at-ţabbaax al-'akl*
Egyptian	الطباخ جهز الاكل	*at-ţabbaax gahhiz al-'akl*

'The cook prepared the food'

B. Case Endings

Egyptian drops almost all case endings on nouns and other parts of speech. Exceptions include:

(1) Nouns

Case endings survive in occasional instances, especially in fixed expressions:

الحمد لله	*al-Hamdu li-llaah*	'Praise God!'
والله	*wa-llaahi*	'By God!'
باذن الله	*bi-izni-llaah*	'By God's permission'
الله اكبر	*allaahu 'akbar*	'God is most great'
السلام عليكم	*as-salaamu 9aleekum*	'Peace be upon you'

(2) Adverbs

A few adverbs retain the accusative ending:

حالا	*Haalan*	'presently'
ابدا	*abadan*	'never, not at all'
مثلا	*masalan*	'for example'
اهلا وسهلا	*ahlan wa-sahlan*	'welcome'
حقيقة	*Haqiqatan*	'really'
فورا	*fawran*	'immediately'
مرارا	*maraaran*	'time after time'
هنيئا	*hanii'an*	'bon appetit'
مرحبا	*marHaban*	'greetings, welcome'

CHAPTER TWO

NOUNS

6. Gender

The genders of nouns in written Arabic remain almost unchanged in Egyptian, with the following exceptions:

(1) ماء *maa'* 'water' changes to مية *mayya* in Egyptian and is treated as feminine.

(2) other nouns ending in ى *a* are sometimes treated as feminine, such as:

مستشفى *mustašfa* 'hospital'

Note: when in the construct state, masculine nouns ending in *alif-maqṣuura* often have a *t* sound added to make them conform to the feminine construct pattern (see section 8.(1)):

مستشفى البلد *mustašfat al-balad* 'the town hospital'
منتهى الجمالة *muntahat ag-gamaala* 'extremely beautiful'

(3) various other nouns.

مركب *markib* 'boat'
بطن *baṭin* 'stomach'

7. Number

A. The Dual

The dual, pronounced ـين- *-een*, is used except as follows:

(1) when a noun takes the sound masculine plural, so as not to confuse the dual and the plural:

اثنين مدرسين	*itneen mudarrisiin*	'two teachers'

(2) with masculine nouns ending in ى *a*:

اثنين مستشفيات	*itneen mustašfiyaat*	'two hospitals'
اثنين مباني	*itneen mabaani*	'two buildings'

(3) with measures and money and most foreign loan words:

اثنين كيلو	*itneen kiilo*	'two kilos'
اثنين جنيه	*itneen gineeh*	'two pounds'
اثنين راديو	*itneen radyu*	'two radios'

Note one exception to this latter rule:

قرشين	*qiršeen*	'two piasters'

B. Sound Plurals

Masculine sound plurals take an unchanging ـين- *-iin* suffix and feminine sound plurals take ـات- *-aat*. This feminine ending is also added to the following masculine nouns:

(1) some titles and positions:

اسطى ، اسطوات	*usṭa*, *usṭawaat*	'skilled worker'
اب ، ابهات	*ab*, *abahaat*	'father'
اخ ، اخوات	*ax*, *ixwaat*	'brother'
بلدي ، بلديات	*baladi*, *baladiyaat*	'fellow villager'

(2) loan words, both classical and modern:

فنار ، فنارات	*fanaar, fanaraat*	'lighthouse'
كازينو، كازينوهات	*kaziinu, kazinuhaat*	'cafe, nightclub'
جنيه ، جنيهات	*gineh, ginehaat*	'pound'

(3) other masculine nouns:

جواب ، جوابات	*gawaab, gawabaat*	'letter'
يمين ، يمينات	*yamiin, yaminaat*	'oath'
خضار، خضاروات	*xudaar, xudaarawaat*	'vegetable'

C. Broken Plurals

For words that have more than one broken plural, the one (or more) most commonly used in Egyptian have to be learned.

8. Possession

Possession is expressed in two ways:

(1) by the construct phrase (*'idaafa*):

باب المنزل	*baab al-manzil*	'the house door'
قلم خالتي	*qalam xalti*	'the pen of my aunt'
عاصمة البلد	*9aaşimit al-balad*	'the country's capital'
مية النيل	*mayyit an-niil*	'water of the Nile'

The feminine ـة *-it* ending is pronounced in the construct state; otherwise the ـة *-t* sound is dropped.

عاصمة	*9aaşima*	'capital'

(2) by the term بتاع *bitaa9* (feminine بتاعة *bitaa9a*, plural بتوع *bituu9*), related to the Written term تابع *taabi9* 'belonging to'.

بتاع *bitaa9* indicates possession between two nouns.

البيت بتاع الراجل *al-beet bitaa9 ar-raagil*
'the house of (belonging to) the man

Both nouns must be definite. The feminine form is pronounced بتاعة *bitaa9t* and is also used for plurals:

المنزلة بتاعتي *al-manzila bita9ti* 'my house'

الكتب بتاعة المكتبة *ak-kutub bita9t al-maktaba*
'the library books'

بتوع *bituu9* can be used with any definite plural, animate or not, including duals:

الكتب بتوع المكتبة *ak-kutub bituu9 al-maktaba*
'the library books'

الزوجات بتوعه *az-zogaat bituu9u* 'his wives'

الجوزين بتوعها *ag-gozeen bitu9ha*
'her two husbands'

بتاع *bitaa9* indicates a less precise connection than does the construct phrase. A family relationship is normally indicated with the construct, a casual acquaintance with *bitaa9*, though usage on this matter varies considerably. One may feel safe using *bitaa9* often and in any context.

For other ways of expression possession, see section 26.

9. Special Egyptian Noun Forms

(1) the Turkish جي - *-gi* suffix denotes professions:

جزمة ، جزمجي	*gezma*, *gezmagi*	'shoe, shoemaker'
سفرة ، سفرجي	*sufra*, *sufragi*	'dinner table, waiter'
بسطة ، بسطجي	*bosṭa*, *busṭagi*	'mail, postman'
مكوى ، مكوجي	*makwa*, *makwagi*	'ironing store, laundryman'

(2) The suffix اني- *-aani* makes nouns out of adjectives.

اخر ، اخراني	*'aaxir*, *'axiraani*	'last, the last one'
تحت ، تحتاني	*taHt*, *taHtaani*	'below, the one below'

CHAPTER THREE

ADJECTIVES

10. Modifying Adjectives

Modifying adjectives are used as in Written Arabic, including ordinal numbers and the comparative and superlative forms. There is no dual, however; plurals are used instead:

راجلين كويسين	*ragleen kwayyisiin*	'two good men'
فلاحين طوال	*fellaHeen ţuwwaal*	'two tall peasants'
اوضتين وسخة	*'oḑateen wisxa*	'two dirty rooms'

11. Cardinal Numbers

As in Written Arabic, plurals of nouns are used only with the numbers three to ten, except for an additional usage with the number two.

A. 'One'

As in Written Arabic, 'one' is an adjective:

masc.	شاي واحد	*šay waaHid*	'one (cup of) tea'
fem.	نسخة واحدة	*nusxa waHda*	'one copy'

Note the irregularities of ordering, though:

واحد شاي	*waHid šay*	'one tea (please)'
واحد قهوة	*waHid qahwa*	'one coffee (please)'

B. 'Two'

Always اثنين *itneen*, and precedes the noun. For usage see section 7.A.

C. Three to Ten

(1) In isolation the masculine (or 'long form') is used:

ثلاثة	*talaata*	'three'
اربعة	*'arba9a*	'four'
خمسة	*xamsa*	'five'
ستة	*sitta*	'six'
سبعة	*sab9a*	'seven'
ثمانية	*tamanya*	'eight'
تسعة	*tis9a*	'nine'
عشرة	*9ašara*	'ten'

(2) When a plural noun immediately follows, the feminine (or 'short form') is used:

ثلاث	*talat*	'three'
اربع	*'arba9*	'four'
خمس	*xamas*	'five'
ست	*sitt*	'six'
سبع	*saba9*	'seven'
ثمن	*taman*	'eight'
تسع	*tisa9*	'nine'
عشر	*9ašar*	'ten'

For example:

اربع كتب	*'arba9 kutub*	'four books'
تسع سنين	*tisa9 siniin*	'nine years'

Masculine plural nouns with an initial glottal stop usually retain the Written Arabic gender polarization and the final ة t of the number is pronounced:

ثلاثة آلاف	*talatt alaaf*	'three thousand'
سبعة ايام	*sab9at ayaam*	'seven days'
اربعة اشهر	*ɔrba9t ušhur*	'four months'
ستة اصناف	*sittit aşnaaf*	'six kinds'

but:

خمس اسابيع	*xamas asabii9*	'five weeks'

Measures, money and orders for common goods are left in the singular; the isolation (or long) form is used with them:

خمسه تعريفة	*xamsa ta9riifa*	'five tarifas'
تسعة جنيه	*tis9a gineh*	'nine pounds'
اربعة جرام	*'arba9a graam*	'four grams'
ثمانية عصير ليمون	*tamanya 9aşiir limuun*	'eight lemonades (please)'

D. Teens

The feminine form is used and the ع *9ayn* in عشر *9ašar* drops out:

حد اشر	*Hidaašer*	'eleven'
اثن اشر	*itnaašer*	'twelve'
ثلاثة اشر	*talattaašer*	'thirteen'
اربعة اشر	*'arba9taašer*	'fourteen'
خمسة اشر	*xamastaašer*	'fifteen'
ستة اشر	*sittaašer*	'sixteen'
سبعة اشر	*saba9taašer*	'seventeen'
ثمنة اشر	*tamantaašer*	'eighteen'
تسعة اشر	*tisa9taašer*	'nineteen'

For example:

اثن اشر كرسي	*itnaašer kursi*	'twelve chairs'
سبعة اشر مبنى	*sab9ataašer mabna*	'17 buildings'

Note that in ثلاثة اشر *talattaašer* both the ث and the ث are pronounced *t*.

E. Tens

Multiples of ten end in ين *-iin*, like the sound masculine plurals:

عشرين	*9ašriin*	'twenty'
ثلاثين	*talatiin*	'thirty'
اربعين	*arba9iin*	'forty'
خمسين	*xamsiin*	'fifty'
ستين	*sittiin*	'sixty'
سبعين	*sab9iin*	'seventy'
ثمانين	*tamaniin*	'eighty'
تسعين	*tis9iin*	'ninety'

As in written Arabic, units precede tens:

اربعة وثمانين صورة *arba9a wa-tamaniin ṣuura*
'eighty four pictures'

F. Hundreds

Hundreds have two pronunciations:

(1) in isolation:

مية	*miyya*	'hundred'
ميتين	*miteen*	'200'
ثلثمية	*tultumiyya*	'300'

ربعمية	*rub9umiyya*	'400'
خمسمية	*xumsumiyya*	'500'
ستمية	*suttumiyya*	'600'
سبعمية	*sub9umiyya*	'700'
ثمنمية	*tumnumiyya*	'800'
تسعمية	*tus9umiyya*	'900'

For example:

فيه كم جن؟ خمسمية. *fiih kam ginn? xumsumiyya.*
'How many jinns are there? 500.'

(2) when followed by a singular noun, مية is pronounced *miit*.

مية مرة *miit marra* 'a hundred times'

فيه خمسمية جن *fiih xumsumiit ginn*
'There are 500 jinns'

G. Thousands, Millions, etc.

As in Written Arabic, الف *'alf* and مليون *milyuun* are treated as ordinary nouns:

الف	*'alf*	1000
الفين	*'alfeen*	2000
ثلاثة آلاف	*talatt alaaf*	3000
مليون	*milyuun*	'million'
خمس ملايين	*xamas malayiin*	'five million'

H. Fractions

(1) 'a half' is نص *nuşş*.

(2) 'a third' has the pattern فعل *fi9l*; 'a fourth' to 'a tenth' follows the pattern فعل *fu9l*:

ثلث	*tilt*	'a third'
ربع	*rub9*	'a fourth'
خمس	*xums*	'a fifth'
ست	*sutt*	'a sixth'
سبع	*sub9*	'a seventh'
ثمن	*tumn*	'an eighth'
تسع	*tus9*	'a ninth'
عشر	*9ušr*	'a tenth'

(3) for fractions of 'an eleventh', etc., the pattern 'one in eleven' is used (this is the same pattern for percentages):

واحد في الحد اشر	*waaHid fi-l-Hidaašar*	one-eleventh
تسعين في المية	*tis9iin fi-l-miyya*	90 per cent

12. The Definite Article

As in Written Arabic except that Egyptian has two additional sun letters (i.e., two letters that assimilate to the ل *lam*): ج *giim* and ك *kaf*:

الجمل	*ag-gamal*	'the camel'
الكتاب	*ak-kitaab*	'the book'

CHAPTER FOUR

PRONOUNS

13. Isolated Personal Pronouns

انا	*ana*	I	احنا	*iHna*	we
انت	*inta*	you^{m}	انتو	*intu*	you^{pl}
انت	*inti*	you^{f}			
هو	*huwwa*	he	هم	*humma*	they
هي	*hiyya*	she			

14. Pronominal Suffixes

ي	-*i* (*ya*)	my; me	نا	-*na*	our; us
ني	-*ni*				
ك	-*(a)k*	your^{m}; you^{m}	كو	-*(u)ku*	your^{pl}; you^{pl}
ك	-*(i)k*	your^{f}; you^{f}			
ه	-*u(h)*	his; him	هم	-*(u)hum*	their; them
ها	-*(a)ha*	her			

The 3rd person plural suffix does not change from *u* to *i* after an *i* or a dipthong as it does in Written Arabic:

بهم	*bihum*	'with them'
عليهم	*9aleehum*	'on them'

A. As Possessive Pronouns

(1) After -VVC and -VVCV. حبيب *Habiib* 'dear friend^{m}' and حبيبة *Habiiba* 'dear friend^{f}'

حبيبي	*Habiib-i*	حبيبنا	*Habib-na*
حبيبك حبيبك	*Habiib-ak* *Habiib-ik*	حبيبكو	*Habib-ku*
حبيبه حبيبها	*Habiib-u* *Habib-ha*	حبيبهم	*Habib-hum*
حبيبتي	*Habibt-i*	حبيبتنا	*Habibit-na*
حبيبتك حبيبتك	*Habibt-ak* *Habibt-ik*	حبيبتكو	*Habibit-ku*
حبيبته حبيبتها	*Habibt-u* *Habibit-ha*	حبيبتهم	*Habibit-hum*

(2) After -CC and -CCV. كلب *kalb* 'dog^{m}' and كلبة *kalba* 'dog^{f}'

كلبي	*kalb-i*	كلبنا	*kalb-i-na*
كلبك	*kalb-ak*	كلبكو	*kalb-u-ku*
كلبك	*kalb-ik*		
كلبه	*kalb-u*	كلبهم	*kalb-u-hum*
كلبها	*kalb-a-ha*		
كلبتي	*kalbit-i*	كلبتنا	*kalbit-na*
كلبتك	*kalbit-ak*	كلبتكو	*kalbit-ku*
كلبتك	*kalbit-ik*		
كلبته	*kalbit-u*	كلبتهم	*kalbit-hum*
كلبتها	*kalbit-ha*		

(3) After -CVC. صاحب *şaaHib* 'friend; owner of'

صاحبي	*şaHb-i*	صاحبنا	*şaHib-na*
صاحبك	*şaHb-ak*	صاحبكو	*şaHib-ku*
صاحبك	*şaHb-ik*		
صاحبه	*şaHb-u*	صاحبهم	*şaHib-hum*
صاحبها	*şaHib-ha*		

(4) After a vowel. The final vowel lengthens before the suffix. Note that after a vowel the suffix meaning 'my' is -*ya*.
دوا *dawa* 'medicine'

دواي	*dawaa-ya*	دوانا	*dawaa-na*
دواك	*dawaa-k*	دواكو	*dawaa-ku*
دواك	*dawaa-ki*		
دواه	*dawaa-h*	دواهم	*dawaa-hum*
دواها	*dawaa-ha*		

(5) With the dual. Following the rules of Written Arabic, the ن *n* of the dual ending drops out before a pronoun suffix.
والدين *walideen* '(two) parents'

والديى	*walidee-ya*	والدينا	*walidee-na*
والديك	*walidee-k*	والديكو	*walidee-ku*
والديك	*walidee-ki*		
والديه	*walidee-h*	والديهم	*walidee-hum*
والديها	*walidee-ha*		

The *'idaafa* form with the dual is rarely used, mostly with parts of the body. More commonly, بتاع *bitaa9* is employed:

الصيفين بتوعي *aṣ-ṣeefeen bituu9i*
'two swords belonging to me'

(6) With the masculine sound plural. Contrary to Written Arabic rules, the ن *n* of the plural ending remains and the

pronoun suffixes are added to it. بوّابين *bawwabiin* 'doormen'

بوابيني	*bawwabiin-i*	بوابينّا	*bawwabin-na*
بوابينك	*bawwabiin-ak*	بوابينكو	*bawwabin-ku*
بوابينك	*bawwabiin-ik*		
بوابينه	*bawwabiin-u*	بوابينهم	*bawwabin-hum*
بوابينها	*bawwabin-ha*		

Again, بتاع *bitaa9* is more common:

البوابين بتوع المبنى *al-bawwabiin bituu9 al-mabna*
'the doormen of the building'

(7) With the Feminine Sound Plural. As in (6) above.

عربياتنا *9arabiyat-na* 'our cars'

B. As Direct Objects of Prepositions

The suffixes and rules are as in A. above, with some exceptions. In several cases, the vowel *i* lengthens; in another, the consonant ن *n* doubles:

(1) بـ *bi-* 'with, by, in'

بي	*biiya*	بنا	*biina*
بك	*biik*	بكو ، بكم	*biiku(m)*
بك	*biiki*		
به	*biih*	بهم	*biihum*
بها	*biiha*		

(2) في *fii* 'in'

فيّ	*fiiya*	فينا	*fiina*
فيك	*fiik*	فيكو ، فيكم	*fiiku(m)*
فيك	*fiiki*		
فيه	*fiih*	فيهم	*fiihum*
فيها	*fiiha*		

(3) -لـ *li-* 'to'

ليّ	*liiya*	لنا	*lina*, *liina*
لك	*lik*, *lak*, *liik*	لكو ، لكم	*luku(m)*, *liiku(m)*
لك	*lik*, *liki*, *liiki*		
له	*liih*, *luh*	لهم →	*liihum*, *luhum*
لها	*laha*, *liha*, *liiha*		

(4) من *min* 'from'

مني	*minni*	منا	*minnina*, *minna*
منك	*minnak*	منكو ، منكم	*minku(m)*, *minnuku(m)*
منك	*minnik*		
منه	*minnuh*	منهم	*minhum*, *minnuhum*
منها	*minnaha*, *minha*		

C. As Direct Objects of Verbs

Again, the suffixes and rules remain the same, except for the 'me' (first person singular) which changes to ني *-ni*.

(1) After -VC:

شاف *šaaf* 'he saw' — شافني *šaf-ni* 'he saw me'

(2) After -CC:

شفت *šuft* 'you saw' — شفتني *šuft-i-ni* 'you saw me'

(3) After -CVC:

شافت *šafit* 'she saw' — شافتني *šafit-ni* 'she saw me'

(4) After a vowel:

شافوا *šaafu* 'they saw' — شافوني *šafuu-ni* 'they saw me'

15. Demonstrative Pronouns

A.

دا *da* 'this^{m}, that^{m}'
دي *di* 'this^{f}, that^{f}'

دول ، دي *dol*, *di* 'these, those'

While the dual and the plural of animate masculine nouns always take دول *dol*, other plurals take either دي *di* or دول *dol*.

الفلاح دا	*al-fellaaH da*	'this peasant man'
الفلاحة دي	*al-fellaaHa di*	'this peasant woman'
الفلاحين دول	*al-fellaHeen dol*	'these two peasant men'
الفلاحين دول	*al-fellaHiin dol*	'these peasant men'
الفلاحتين دي	*al-fellaHateen di*	'these two peasant women'
الفلاحات دي	*al-fellaHaat di*	'these peasant women'
الفلاحات دول	*al-fellaHaat dol*	'these peasant women'

The demonstrative follows the noun, in contrast to Written Arabic.

In a few cases, the demonstrative is considered part of the word for purposes of stress:

الليلة دي	*al-lelaá di*	'tonight'
النهار دا	*en-nehaár da*	'today'
السنة دى	*as-senaá di*	'this year'
المرة دي	*el-marraá di*	'this time'

B. Egyptian has a demonstrative not found in Written Arabic:

أهو *'ahú* (m.)
أهي *'ahí* (f.)
أهم *'ahúm* (pl.)

Stress goes on the second vowel, although it is short, a unique pattern in Egyptian. أهو *'ahu* means 'here it is' or 'here is ...' and precedes the noun:

فين الجموسة؟ أهي *feen ag-gamuusa? 'ahi!*
'Where is the water buffalo? Here (it is)!'

أهم الخواجات *'ahum al-xawagaat*
'Here are the foreigners!'

16. Relative Particles

A. There is only one relative pronoun, اللى *illi* 'that, that which', corresponding to the Written Arabic الذي , *alladhii*, and like it, used only with definite antecedents. It is sometimes omitted, as in English.

عاوزها اللي تجيبلي *9awizha illi tigibni*
'I want whatever you bring me.'

جبتها لي
انا عاوز الهداية (اللي) جبتني *'ana 9aawiz al-Hedaya (illi) gibtini*
'I want the present (that) you brought me.'

هو عاوز الهداية (اللي) اشتريتها   *huwwa 9aawiz al-Hedaya (illi) štareetu*
'He wants the present (that) I bought.'

B. The relative particle ما *ma* forms conjunctions.

بعدما	*ba9d-i-ma*	'after'
زي ما	*zayy-i-ma*	'so as'
طال ما	*taal-i-ma*	'as long as'
قبل ما	*qabl-i-ma*	'before'
كلما	*kull-i-ma*	'all that'
وقتما	*waqt-i-ma*	'when'

C. من *man* 'who' is pronounced مين *miin* in Egyptian. As a relative particle, it is usually replaced by اللي *illi*.

انا اللي عاوز يروح   *ana illi 9aawiz yiruuH*
'I'm the one who wants to go.'

17. Interrogative Pronouns

Although identical in function to those in Written Arabic, several have different pronunciation:

(1) من *man* 'who?' is replaced by مين *miin*.

مين دا؟   *miin da?*   'Who's that?'

(2) ماذا *maadhaa* 'what?' is replaced by أيه *'eeh* .

أيه دا؟   *eeh da?*   'What's that?'

(3) لماذا *limaadhaa* 'why?' is replaced by ليه *leeh*.

ليه بقى؟ *leeh baqa?* 'What for? Why's that?'

(4) كيف *kayfa* 'how?' is replaced by ازى *'izzayy*.

ازيك ؟ *'izzayyik?* 'How are you[f]?'

(5) اين *'ayna* 'where?' is replaced by فين *feen*.

فينك ؟ *feenak?* 'Where have you been?'

CHAPTER FIVE

VERBS

18. Preliminary Remarks

A. Notes on Usage

(1) The final short vowels of Written Arabic verbs are dropped in Egyptian:

Written	دفع	*dafa9a*	'he paid'
Egyptian	دفع	*dafa9*	'he paid'

(2) Verbs follow the subject.

(3) Pronouns are often used with verbs, although they are, strictly speaking, superfluous. Occasionally they emphasize the doer, but more often, they have no function.

احنا جينا عشان الحفلة *iHna geena 9ašaan al-Hafla*
'We came for the party.'

انا بحبك *ana baHibbak* 'I love you'

B. Nominal Sentences

Sentences without a verb are common in Egyptian:

اهي العصفورة *ahi al-9aşfuura*
'Here is the bird'

النهار دا العيد الكبير *en-nahaarda al-9iid ak-kabiir*
'Today is the great holiday'

انت عبيطة *inti 9abiiţa* 'You are stupid'

The invariable مش *miš* 'not' takes the place of ليس *laysa* in negating nominal sentences (see section 34).

العربية دي مش بتاعتي *al-9arabiyya di miš bita9ti*
'This car isn't mine'

C. Participles Used As Verbs

Active participles can functionally replace verbs. They agree in number and gender with the subject. Some active participles are commonly used as verbs in Egyptian while others are never heard. Here are some of the most common ones:

رايح *raayiH*	شايف *šaayif*	ماشي *maaši*	مسافر *misaafir*
جاي *gayy*	راجع *raagi9*	راكب *raakib*	موافق *muwaafiq*
قاعد *qaa9id*	واقف *waaqif*	واكل *waakil*	محتاج *miHtaag*
نايم *naayim*	جايب *gaayib*	شارب *šaarib*	مستريح *mustarayiH*
فاهم *faahim*	واخد *waaxud*	مروّح *mirawwaH*	
عاوز *9aawiz*	فاتح *faatiH*		

19. Conjugating Form I

The conjugations change little in Egyptian; the most important difference is the general tendency towards the vowel *i*.

A. The Perfect Tense

The following suffixes indicate the subject:

I	ـ ت	-t	we	ـ نا	-na
you m. you f.	ـ ت ـ تي	-t -ti	you pl.	ـ تو	-tu
he she	ـ ت	-- -it	they	ـ وا	-u

(1) Strong roots follow the literary vowel pattern a-a or the peculiarly colloquial i-i. كتب *katab* 'he wrote' and لبس *libis* 'he got dressed'.

كتبت	*katabt*	كتبنا	*katabna*
كتبت كتبتي	*katabt* *katabti*	كتبتو	*katabtu*
كتب كتبت	*katab* *katabit*	كتبوا	*katabu*

لبست	*libist*	لبسنا	*libisna*
لبست لبستي	*libist* *libisti*	لبستو	*libistu*
لبس لبست	*libis* *libsit*	لبسوا	*libsu*

(2) Doubled roots are notable for the -ee preceding the suffixes in the first and second persons. حب *Habb* 'to love'

حبيت	*Habbeet*	حبينا	*Habbeena*
حبيت حبيتي	*Habbeet* *Habbeeti*	حبيتو	*Habbeetu*
حب حبت	*Habb* *Habbit*	حبوا	*Habbu*

The *-eet* ending changes to *-it* when followed by a pronoun suffix which creates a consonant cluster (as in section 3.C(1)):

حبتها	*Habbitha*	'I loved her.'
حبيته	*Habbeetu*	'I loved him.'

(3) Medial weak roots are unchanged from the Written Arabic, whether the medial root consonant is و *w* or ي *y*. شاف *šaaf* 'to see' and ساب *saab* 'to leave'.

شفت	*šuft*	شفنا	*šufna*
شفت شفتي	*šuft* *šufti*	شفتو	*šuftu*
شاف شافت	*šaaf* *šaafit*	شافوا	*šaafu*

سبت	*sibt*	سبنا	*sibna*
سبت سبتي	*sibt* *sibti*	سبتو	*sibtu*
ساب سابت	*saab* *saabit*	سابوا	*saabu*

(4) Final weak roots (including final *hamza*) follow the patterns of Written Arabic. قرا *qara* 'to read' and نسي *nisi* 'to forget'.

قريت	*qareet*	قرينا	*qareena*
قريت	*qareet*	قريتو	*qareetu*
قريتي	*qareeti*		
قرا	*qara*	قروا	*qaru*
قرت	*qarit*		
نسيت	*nisiit*	نسينا	*nisiina*
نسيت	*nisiit*	نسيتو	*nisiitu*
نسيتي	*nisiiti*		
نسي	*nisi*	نسوا (نسيوا)	*nisu* (*nisyu*)
نست (نسيت)	*nisit* (*nisyit*)		

B. The Imperfect Tense

The following prefixes and suffixes indicate the subject:

ا ـ	*a-*	ن ـ	*n-*
ت ـ	*t-*	ت ـ ... ـ و	*t-...-u*
ت ـ ... ـ ى	*t-...-i*		
ي ـ	*y-*	ي ـ ... ـ و	*y-...-u*
ت ـ	*t-*		

(1) Strong roots most commonly take an i-a vowel pattern in the imperfect.

فتح ، يفتح	*fatah, yiftaH*	'to open'
سأل ، يسأل	*sa'al, yis'al*	'to ask'
فهم ، يفهم	*fihim, yifham*	'to understand'
رجع ، يرجع	*rigi9, yirga9*	'to return'

Some strong roots with a-a in the perfect take i-i or u-u in the imperfect.

i-i	كتب ، يكتب	*katab, yiktib*	'to write'
	عمل ، يعمل	*9amal, yi9mil*	'to do, make
u-u	قعد ، يقعد	*qa9ad, yuq9ud*	'to sit'
	دخل ، يدخل	*daxal, yudxul*	'to enter'
	خرج ، يخرج	*xarag, yuxrug*	'to leave'
	سكن ، يسكن	*sakan, yuskun*	'to reside'

And some roots with i-i in the perfect keep the same vowel pattern in the imperfect.

لبس ، يلبس	*libis, yilbis*	'to get dressed'
كذب ، يكذب	*kizib, yikzib*	'to tell a lie, lie
حلف ، يحلف	*Hilif, yiHlif*	'to swear (an oath)'

Conjugation of virtually all imperfect verbs follows regular patterns. سمع *sama9* 'to listen'

اسمع	*asma9*	نسمع	*nisma9*
تسمع	*tisma9*	تسمعو	*tisma9u*
تسمعي	*tisma9i*		
يسمع	*yisma9*	يسمعو	*yisma9u*
تسمع	*tisma9*		

(2) Doubled roots take an *i-i* or *i-u* pattern:

i-i	حب ، يحب	*Habb, yiHibb*	'to love'
	دل ، يدل	*dall, yidill*	'to show'
i-u	مر ، يمر	*marr, yimurr*	'to pass'
	ضر ، يضر	*ḍarr, yiḍurr*	'to injure'

The conjugation is predictable:

احب	*aHibb*	نحب	*niHibb*
تحب	*tiHibb*	تحبو	*tiHibbu*
تحبي	*tiHibbi*		
يحب	*yiHibb*	يحبو	*yiHibbu*
تحب	*tiHibb*		

(3) Medial weak roots take *a*, *i*, or *u* patterns:

a	نام ، ينام	*naam, yinaam*	'to sleep'
i	شيل ، يشيل	*šiil, yišiil*	'to carry'
u	شاف ، يشوف	*šaaf, yišuuf*	'to see'

Conjugation is regular:

انام	*anaam*	ننام	*ninaam*
تنام	*tinaam*	تنامو	*tinaamu*
تنامي	*tinaami*		
ينام	*yinaam*	ينامو	*yinaamu*
تنام	*tinaam*		

(4) Final weak roots follow an *i-a* or *i-i* pattern:

قرا ، يقرا	*qara*, *yiqra*	'to read'
ملا ، يملا	*mala*, *yimla*	'to fill'
نسى ، ينسي	*nasa*, *yinsi*	'to forget'
جرى ، يجري	*gara*, *yigri*	'to run'

اقرا	*aqra*	نقرا	*niqra*
تقرا	*tiqra*	تقرو	*tiqru*
تقري	*tiqri*		
يقرا	*yiqra*	يقرو	*yiqru*
تقرا	*tiqra*		

Egyptian has no equivalent of the jussive or subjunctive of Written Arabic.

C. The Passive

The passive is usually formed in Egyptian by the use of Form VII verbs, but with *-t-* in place of the Written Arabic *-n-*. This colloquial form conjugates like Form VII but expresses the passive of Form I.

Strong	كتب ، اتكتب	*kitib*; *itkatab*	'to write; be written'
Double	عد ، اتعد	*9idd*; *it9add*	'to count; be counted'
Medial	باع ، اتباع	*baa9*; *itbaa9*	'to sell; be sold'
Final	لقى ، اتلقى	*laqa*; *itlaqa*	'to find; be found'

An occasional internal passive is used, as:

يوجد	*yuugad*	'there is'
يولد	*yuulid*	'to be born'

D. The Imperative

The imperative is identical to the second person imperfect forms, but without the initial ـتـ *t-*.

	Imperfect		Imperative	
you^m	تكتب	*tiktib*	اكتب	*iktib*
you^f	تدخلي	*tudxuli*	ادخلي	*udxuli*
you^{pl}	تروحو	*tiruuHu*	روحو	*ruuHu*

E. Participles and Verbal Nouns (*maṣdar*)

Both participles and verbal nouns are as in Written Arabic.

20. Conjugating Forms II-X

In all of these conjugations the 'he' form of the imperfect is formed by prefixing a ـيـ *yi-* to 'he' form of the perfect (that is, *ya-* or *yu-* are not used).

Derived forms (I, you^m, you^f, she, we, you^{pl}, they) follow as in Written Arabic; thus we need deal here only with the perfect and imperfect of each verb in the 'he' form.

A. Form II

The perfect tense remains unchanged and for all but final weak roots, the imperfect is formed by simply adding its prefixes and suffixes (the 'imperfect' elements).

Strong	عرف ، يعرف	*9arraf*, *yi9arraf*	'to define'
Doubled	قرر ، يقرر	*qarrar*, *yiqarrar*	'to decide'
Medial	دور ، يدور	*dawwar*, *yidawwar*	'to search'

The final weak roots end in ى *a in the perfect and* ي *i* in the imperfect.

Final	صلى ، يصلي	*ṣalla*, *yiṣalli*	'to pray'
	قضى ، يقضي	*qaḍḍa*, *yiqaḍḍi*	'to ~~judge~~ spend time'

B. Form III

Exactly the same pattern as Form II. The Written Arabic vowel pattern *aa-a* is replaced by *aa-i*.

Strong	سافر ، يسافر	*saafir*, *yisaafir*	'to travel'
Medial	حاول ، يحاول	*Haawil*, *yiHaawil*	'to try'
Final	لاقى ، يلاقي	*laaqa*, *yilaaqi*	'to find'

C. Form IV

Rare in Egyptian. The perfect remains unchanged while the imperfect resembles the colloquial Form I.

اعلن ، يعلن *'a9lan*, *yi9lin* 'to announce'

D. Forms V and VI

These two forms are expressed in Written Arabic by adding تـ - *ta-* but Egyptian instead adds اتـ - *it-*. Also the final vowel in all but final weak roots changes from *a* to *i*. Then the imperfect is expressed by adding the imperfect elements and changing nothing else, even in the final weak roots.

V-Strong	اتكلم ، يتكلم	*itkallim*, *yitkallim*	'to talk'
VI-Medial	اتعاون ، يتعاون	*it9aawin*, *yit9aawin*	'to cooperate'
V-Final	اتعشى ، يتعشى	*it9ašša*, *yit9ašša*	'to eat dinner'
VI-Final	اتساوى ، يتساوى	*itsaawa*, *yitsaawa*	'to be equal'

E. Form VII

The perfect tense remains unchanged. Strong and final weak roots almost always take an *i-i-i* vowel pattern in the imperfect.

Strong	انكسر ، ينكسر	*inkasar*, *yinkisir*	'to be broken'
Final	انقضى ، ينقضي	*inqaḍa*, *yinqiḍi*	'to ~~be sentenced~~' lapse (time)

Double and medial weak roots retain the written pattern, with an *a* or *aa* in the imperfect.

Double	انحب ، ينحب	*inHabb*, *yinHabb*	'to be loved'
Medial	انهار ، ينهار	*inhaar*, *yinhaar*	'to collapse'

F. Form VIII

Exactly the same pattern as in Form VII.

Strong	اشترك ، يشترك	*ištarak*, *yištirik*	'to participate'
Double	احتل ، يحتل	*iHtall*, *yiHtall*	'to occupy'
Medial	اغتال ، يغتال	*iɣtaal*, *yiɣtaal*	'to assassinate'
Final	ابتدا ، يبتدي	*ibtada*, *yibtidi*	'to begin'

One exception is

اشتغل ، يشتغل *ištaɣal*, *yištaɣal* 'to work'.

G. Form IX

The perfect remains unchanged. The imperfect elements are added to form the imperfect.

Strong	احمرّ ، يحمرّ	*iHmarr*, *yiHmarr*	'to become red'
Final	احلوّ ، يحلوّ	*iHlaww*, *yiHlaww*	'to become beautiful'

H. Form X

The perfect remains unchanged except that the final *a* changes to *i* in some verbs. Strong roots take the imperfect elements to form the imperfect, without further vowel changes.

Strong *i-a-a* استثمر ، يستثمر *istasmar*, *yistasmir*
'to exploit'

Strong *i-a-i* استعمل ، يستعمل *ista9mal*, *yista9mil*
'to use'

Double and final weak roots are always *i-a-a* in the perfect and either *i-a-a* or *i-a-i* in the imperfect, with the former more common:

Double *i-a-a* استخف ، يستخف *istaxaff*, *yistaxaff*
'to scorn'

Double *i-a-i* استقل ، يستقل *istaqall*, *yistaqill*
'to become independent'

Final *i-a-a* استنى ، يستنى *istanna*, *yistanna*
'to wait'

Final *i-a-i* استفتى ، يستفتي *istafta*, *yistafti*
'to seek an opinion'

Medial weak roots change from *i-a-a* in the perfect to *i-a-i* in the imperfect.

استفاد ، يستفيد *istafaad*, *yistafiid*
'to profit'

But note: استراح ، يستريح *istaraaH*, *yistariyiH*
'to rest, relax'

21. Quadriliteral Roots

The perfect taks an *a-i* vowel in the perfect and the imperfect is formed by adding the imperfect elements.

Form I_4 ترجم ، يترجم *targim*, *yitargim* 'to translate'
Form II_4 تخلبس ، يتخلبس *taxalbas*, *yitaxalbas* 'to clown'

22. The Conditional

The conditional is expressed by اذا *iza*, ان *in*, or لو *law* 'if' and the perfect tense. Egyptian always uses the perfect verb in conditional sentences, even if the meaning is present or future time.

لو رحت ، ان رحت ، اذا رحت *law ruHt*, *in ruHt*, *iza ruHt*
'if I went, had gone; go; were to go'

23. Additional Egyptian Features

A. The Future

The future is expressed by حـ *Ha-* prefixed to the verb (and not by سـ *sa-* or سوف *sawfa*).

حتكلم معه *Hatkallim ma9aah* 'I will speak with him'
حنشوف بكرة ان شاء الله *Hanšuuf bukra* in šaa' 'allaah
'We'll see tomorrow, I hope'

B. The Habitual and Continuous Tense

بـ *bi-* stresses habitual or continuous action in the present and is prefixed to imperfect verbs.

انا بشرب قزازة بيرة كل يوم *'ana bašrab qizaazit biira kull-i-yoom*
'I drink a bottle of beer every day'
انا بشرب دا الوقتي *ana bašrab dilwaqti*
'I'm drinking now.'

بـ *bi-* may be used with nearly any present. It cannot be used with subjunctive clauses that would be introduced by ان *'an* in Written Arabic.

ارجو انه يـخلص الشغل *arguu innu yixallaş aš-šuγl*
'I hope he will finish the work.'
لازم (ان) يخلص الشغل *laazim (an) yixallaş aš-šuγl*
'He must finish the work.'

C. Irregular Verbs

(1) جه *gih* 'to come'

Perfect:	جيت	*geet*	جينا	*geena*
	جيت جيتي	*geet* *geeti*	جيتو	*geetu*
	جه جيت	*gih* *gayit*	جم	*gum*
Imperfect:	آجي	*aagi*	نيجو	*niigu*
	تيجي تيجي	*tiigi* *tiigi*	تيجو	*tiigu*
	ييجي تيجي	*yiigi* *tiigi*	ييجو	*yiigu*
Imperative:	تعالى تعالي	*ta9aala* *ta9aali*	تعالو	*ta9aalu*

Active Participle: جايّ *gayy*

Before suffixes, جه *gih* becomes جا *gaa-*

ما جاش *magaaš* 'he didn't come'

and جم *gum* becomes جو *guu-*

جولى امبارح *guuli imbaariH*
'they came to me yesterday'

(2) اخد *axad* 'to take'

Perfect:	خدت	*xadt*	خدنا	*xadna*
	خدت	*xadt*	خدتو	*xadtu*
	خدتي	*xadti*		
	خد	*xad*	خدو	*xadu*
	خدت	*xadit*		
Imperfect:	آخد	*aaxud*	ناخدو	*naxdu*
	تاخد	*taaxud*	تاخدو	*taxdu*
	تاخدي	*taxdi*		
	ياخد	*yaaxud*	ياخدو	*yaxdu*
	تاخد	*taaxud*		
Imperative:	خد	*xud*	خدو	*xudu*
	خدي	*xudi*		
Active Participle:	واخد	*waaxud*		

(3) اكل *akal* 'to eat' in the imperfect

Imperfect:	آكل	*aakil*	نكلو	*naklu*
	تاكل	*taakil*	تكلو	*taklu*
	تكلي	*takli*		
	ياكل	*yaakil*	يكلو	*yaklu*
	تاكل	*taakil*		

(4) ادّ *add* 'to give' in the 3rd person singular perfect is *adda* (rather than *add*). The imperfect and imperative are also irregular.

Imperfect:	ادّي	*addi*	نوَدّو	*nu'addu*
	توَدّي	*tu'addi*	توَدّو	*tu'addu*
	توَدّي	*tu'addi*		
	يوَدّي	*yu'addi*	يوَدّو	*yu'addu*
	توَدّي	*tu'addi*		
Imperative:	ادّي	*iddi*	ادّو	*iddu*
	ادّي	*iddi*		

CHAPTER SIX

PREPOSITIONS AND CONJUNCTIONS

24. Prepositions

A. Special Egyptian Prepositions

(1) عشان *9ašaan* or علشان *9alašaan* 'because, on account of, for' (these are used interchangably with no difference in meaning)

شربنا عشان كنا عطشنين *širibna 9ašaan kunna 9aţšaniin*
'We drank because we were thirsty.'

اشتريتها علشانك انت *ištaritha 9alašanik inti*
'I bought it for you.'

(2) فيه *fiih* 'there is'

فيه كل حاجة في مصر *fiih kull-i-haaga fii maşr*
'There is everything in Cairo.'

(3) اصل *aşl* 'because' (with pronoun suffix)

نمت اصلي كنت تعبان *nimt aşli kunt-i- ta9baan*
'I slept because I was tired.'

نام اصله كان تعبان *naam aşlu kaan ta9baan*
'He slept because he was tired.'

(4) بدل *badal* 'instead of' (replaces بدلا من *badalan min* in Written Arabic)

ادني ثلاثة كيلو بدل اثنين *iddini talata kilu badal itneen*

'Give me three kilos instead of two.'

If used with a verb, it takes ما *ma*:

بدلما يروح *badal-ma yiruuH* 'instead of going'

(5) عند is unchanged from Written Arabic except that it is pronounced *9and* (instead of *9ind*).

B. Written Arabic Terms Not Used in Egyptian

(1) الى *ilaa* 'to' is replaced by ل *li-*.

(2) ك *ka-* and *likay* 'so, as to, in order to' are replaced by *9ašaan* or *9alašaan*.

(3) دون *duun* 'without' is replaced by من غير *min ɣeer*.

(4) لدى *lada* 'at, by, in front of' is replaced by عند *9and*.

(5) لعلى *la9alla* and عسى *9asaa* 'maybe, perhaps' are replaced by يمكن *yimkin*.

25. Conjunctions

A. Special Egyptian Conjunctions

(1) يبقى *yibqa* (at the beginning of a phrase) or بقى *baqa* (at the end of a phrase) 'so, now, well then.' This word often has no real meaning but indicates the beginning or end of a thought.

يبقى ، حنعمل ايه ؟ *yibqa, Hani9mil 'eeh?* 'So, what will we do?'
وبعدين ، ايه بقى ؟ *wa-ba9deen, 'eeh baqa?* 'And after that, what?

(2) كمان *kamaan* 'also, another'

ادّيني كمان كيلو *iddiini kamaan kiilu* 'Give me another kilo.'

انا محتاج وكمان هو محتاج لفلوس *ana miHtaag wa-kamaan huwwa miHtaag li-filuus*
'I need and he also needs some money.'

(3) برضو *bardu* 'as well'

انا محتاج له برضو *ana miHtaag luh bardu* 'I need him as well.'

(4) بس *bass* 'but'

هو قال كدا بس انا ما صدقتوش *huwwa qaal kida bass ana maa saddaqtuuš*
'He said so, but I didn't believe him.'

(5) لولا *lawla* 'if not' is pronounced *luula* in Egyptian.

B. Written Arabic Terms Not Used in Egyptian

(1) ثم *thumma* 'then' and بعد ذلك *ba9d dhaalika* 'after that, then' are both replaced by بعدين *ba9deen*.

(2) أ *'a* and هل *hal*, the interrogative signs, are not used in Egyptian, replaced rather by raising the voice in a questioning way, as in English.

(3) بل *bal* 'but rather'

26. Possession

عند *9and*, لـ *li*, and مع *ma9a* all indicate possession, but with different implications.

عنده	*9andu*	'he owns'
له	*luh*	'he is owed'
معه	*ma9aah*	'he has (with him, on him)

For example:

عندي عشرين ولد *9andi 9ašriin walad*
'I have 20 children.'
عنده ليّ مية جنيه *9andu liiya miit gineh*
'He owes me 100 pounds.'
فيه معك فكة؟ *fiih ma9aak fakka?*
'Do you have any change on you?'

For other ways of expressing the possessive, see section 8 .

CHAPTER SEVEN

ADVERBS

27. Adverbs of Time

This list, and the following ones in this chapter, contains peculiarly colloquial adverbs.

(1)	دلوقتى	*dilwaqti*	'now'
(2)	بعدين	*ba9deen*	'afterwards'
(3)	امبارح	*imbaariH*	'yesterday'
(4)	اول امبارح	*awwal imbaariH*	'day before yesterday'
(5)	النهار داه	*en-nahaar da*	'today'
(6)	بكرة	*bukra*	'tomorrow'
(7)	بعد بكرة	*ba9d-i-bukra*	'day after tomorrow'
(8)	بدري	*badri*	'early'
(9)	وخري ، متأخر	*waxri*, *mit'axxar*	'late'
(10)	لسة	*lissa*	'still; not yet'

Ex. هو لسة ماجاش *huwwa lissa magaaš*
'He still hasn't come.'

(11)	دايما ، تملي	*dayman*, *tamalli*	'always'
(12)	امتى	*imta*	'when'
(13)	زمان	*zamaan*+pronoun	'about to'

Ex. هو زمانه جاي *huwwa zamaanu gayy* 'He is about to come.'

28. Adverbs of Place

(1)	فين	*feen*	'where'
(2)	منين	*mineen*	'from where'
(3)	برا	*barra*	'outside'
(4)	جوا	*guwwa*	'inside'
(5)	جمب	*gamb*	'next to, beside'

29. Adverbs of Manner

(1) ايوة . آه *aywa*, *aah* 'yes'

(2) نعم، افندم *na9am*, *efendim* 'yes?', 'pardon?'

(3) امال *ummaal* 'certainly, indeed; so then'

Ex. حتروح بكرة ؟ امال *HatruuH bukra? ummaal*

'Will you go tomorrow? Certainly.'

امال ايه ؟ *ummaal eeh?* 'So what then?'

(4) قوي *qawi* 'very'

(5) خالص *xaaliṣ* 'very'

(6) خلاص *xalaaṣ* 'enough, finished'

Ex. خلاص بقى *xalaaṣ baqa*

'Enough then; I'm finished with it.'

(7) شوية *šwayya + iḍaafa* 'a little (of)'

Ex. اكلت شوية لحمة *akalt šwayyit laHma*

'I ate a little bit of meat.'

(8) حبة *Habba + iḍaafa* 'a little (of)'

(9) بشويش *bi-šweeš* 'slowly; quietly'

(10) بس *bass* 'only; enough'

Ex. هي عاوزة دى بس *hiyya 9awza di bass*

'She wants this only.'

بس كدا *bass-i-kida* 'That's enough.'

(11) قد ايه *qadd-i-'eeh?* 'how much, how many?'

Ex. بقي لك قد ايه في مصر ؟ *baqa lak qadd-i-'eeh fii maṣr?*

'How long have you been in Cairo?'

قد ايه بطيخ؟ *qadd-i-'eeh baṭṭiix?*

'How much watermelon?'

بيته قد ايه كبير *beetu qadd-i-'eeh kabiir*

'His house is so big!'

(12) كدا *kida* 'so, thus'

(13) كذا *kaza* '(just) so many'

Ex. حصل كدا كذا مرة *Haşal kida kaza marra*

'It's happened like this so many times.'

(14) زاي *zayy* 'as, like'

Ex. زاي كدا *zayy-i-kida* 'like this'

زاي بعض *zayy-i-ba9ḍ*

'it's all the same; it doesn't matter'

(15) ازاي *izzayy* 'how'

Ex. ازايك ؟ *izzayyak?* 'How are you?'

(16) بلاش *balaaš* 'forget it!'

Ex. يا ريس بلاش الشربة *ya rayyis, balaaš aš-šurba*

'Waiter, forget the drink!'

(17) معليش *ma9leeš* 'never mind; it doesn't matter; excuse me'

(18) يا ترا *ya tara* 'I wonder'

Ex. يا ترا حتيجي ؟ *ya tara Hatigi?*

'I wonder, will she come?'

(19) مش ، ما ... ش *miš*, *ma*...*š* 'not'

For examples, see chapter 8.

CHAPTER EIGHT

NEGATIONS

Egyptian has one sign of negation, the two letters م *miim* ش *šiin* standing together as the word مش *miš* (or *muš*) or apart, ما *ma* as a prefix and ش-- *-š* as a suffix. This negative can negate not only verbs and participles, but also pronouns, prepositions, and adjectives.

30. Negations of Verbs

(1) -- *bi-* and -> *Ha-* forms are negated with مش *miš*

مش بروح كل يوم *miš baruuH kull-i-yoom*
'I don't go every day.'

مش حتنامو الليلة دي *miš Hatnaamu al-leela di*
'You won't sleep tonight.'

(2) All other forms are negated by ما...ش *ma...š*.
Perfect, imperfect, and imperative examples follow:

ما روحتش الاهرام *maruHtiš al-'ahraam*
'I haven't been to the pyramids.'

ما أعرفش د *ma'a9rafši-da* 'I don't know this.'

ما تخفش *matxafš abadan*
'Don't be afraid at all!'

Also, -ب *bi-* can be negated by ما..ش *ma...š*

ما بشربش سجاير *mabašrabš sagaayir* 'I don't smoke.'

Imperatives can also be negated with بلاش *balaaš*

ما تمشيش ، بلاش تمشي *matimšiiš*, *balaaš timši*
'Don't go!'

ما *ma* without ش- *-š* negates a perfect verb when it follows عمر *9umr* and a pronoun suffix, making for a very emphatic negative:

عمري ما سمعت الحكاية دي *9umri masimi9t al-Hikaaya di*
'I've never in my life heard this story.'
عمره ما شاف كدا *9umru mašaaf kida*
'He's never seen this.'

(3) When ما..ش *ma...š* negates a verb with a pronoun suffix, the ش- *-š* comes after the pronoun suffix:

ما شفتكش *mašuftakš* 'I didn't see you.'

When the verb ends in two consonants, following the pattern of avoiding more than two consonants together, an *-i-* is inserted before the ش- *-š*:

ما سألتش *masa'altiš* 'You^{m} didn't ask.'

When the verb or its suffix ends in a vowel, the vowel is lengthened and stressed before the ش- *-š*. Note that كم- *-kum* changes to كو- *-kuu* before the negative ش- *-š*

ما سألتيش *masa'altiiš* 'You^{f} didn't ask.'
ما سألوش *masa'aluuš* 'They didn't ask.'
ما سألهاش *masa'aluhaáš* 'They didn't ask her.'
ما سألتكيش *masa'altikiíš* 'I didn't ask you^{f}.'
ما سألتكوش *masa'altukuuš* 'I didn't ask you^{pl}.'

The ش- *-š* may sometimes follow even prepositions with the direct object:

ما جبتهلكش *magibtuhulakš*
'I didn't bring it to you^{m}.'

31. Negations of Participles

مش *miš* negates all participles used as verbs:

مش عاوز اي حاجة *miš 9aawiz ayi Haaga*
'I don't want anything.'
مش مسافرين سيناء *miš misafiriin siina*
'We aren't going to Sinai.'

Nominal sentences are negated by مش *miš* (see section 34).

32. Negations of Pronouns

Negating a pronoun expresses emphasis or definiteness. It is done either with مش *miš* or ما...ش *ma...š*:

مش انا، مانيش *miš ana*, *maniiš*

مش انتا، ماانتاش *miš inta*, *mantaaš*
مش انتي، ماانتيش *miš inti*, *mantiiš*

مش هو، ماهواش *miš huwwa*, *mahuwwaaš*
مش هي، ماهياش *miš hiyya*, *mahiyyaaš*

مش احنا، مااحناش *miš ihna*, *maHnaaš*
مش انتو، ماانتوش *miš intu*, *mantuuš*
مش هم، ماهماش *miš humma*, *mahummaaš*

Note the following:
ماهواش هنا *mahuwwaaš hina* 'He's not here.'

حد *Had* 'one, someone' can also be negated:
ماحدش بيردّ *maHaddiš birudd* 'No one answers.'

33. Negations of Prepositions

The following prepositions can be negated when followed by pronoun suffixes. Here they are given with the 3.m.sg. suffixes:

(1) فيه ، مافيش *fiih, mafiiš* 'there is not'

Ex. مافيش فايدة *mafiiš fayda* 'There is no use.'

(2) عنده ، ماعندوش *9andu, ma9anduuš* 'he hasn't'

له ، مالوش *luh, maluuš* 'he hasn't owed to him'

معاه ، مامعاش *ma9aah, mama9aaš* 'he doesn't have with him'

(3) تحته ، ماتحتوش *taHtu, mataHtuuš* 'not below him'

جمبه ، ماجمبوش *gambu, magambuuš* 'not beside him'

فوقه ، مافوقوش *fooqu, mafooquuš* 'not above him'

Ex. مافوقناش حد *mafoqnaaš Had*

'No one (lives on the floor) above us'

34. Negations of Adjectives

مش *miš* negates predicate adjectives in nominal sentences.

زوجي مش بطال *zoogi miš baṭṭaal*

'My husband isn't bad.'

رايك مش مضبوط *rayyik miš maẓbuuṭ*

'Your[f] opinion is wrong.'

CHAPTER NINE

VOCABULARY

The following list contains words in Egyptian which have slight or no correspondence to their Written Arabic equivalents. Only a few words noted in Wehr's Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic are included. Numbers are omitted; plurals are in parentheses; verbs are in the 3.m.sg. perfect form.

absolutely	خالص	*xaaliṣ*
afterwards	بعدين	*ba9deen*
again	ثاني	*taani*
against	ضد	*ḍidd*
ago	من مدة	*min mudda*
ago (a little while ago)	قبل شوية	*qabl-i-šwayya*
ago (long ago)	من زمان	*min zamaan*
alike	زاي بعد	*zayy-i-ba9d*
all right	طيب	*ṭayyib*
along, straight	على طول	*9ala ṭuul*
already	من قبل	*min qabl*
also	برضو، كمان	*barḍu, kamaan*
always	دايما، تملي	*dayman, tamalli*
another	واحد ثاني ، كمان	*waaHid taani, kamaan*
any	أي	*ayyi*
anyhow	على كل حال	*9ala kull-i Haal*
as well, also	برضو	*barḍu*
as, like	زاي	*zayy*
at, by	عند	*9and*
bad	وحش	*wiHiš*
bakhsheesh	بخشيش	*baxšiiš*
balcony	بلكونة	*balkuuna*
because	عشان، علشان، اصل -	*9ašaan, 9alašaan, aṣl-*
to become	بقى	*baqa*
belonging to	بتاع، بتاعة، بتوع	*bitaa9, bitaa9it, bituu9*
beside	جمب	*gamb*
bit	حتة	*Hitta*
boot	جزمة (جزم)	*gezma (gezam)*
bottle	قزازة	*qizaaza*
boy	واد، ولد	*waad, walad*

bravo	برافو	*braafu*
to bring	جاب	*gaab*
but	بس	*bass*
butler	سفرجي	*sufragi*
cab, taxi	تكس (ـ يات)	*taks(i) (-yaat)*
Cairo	مصر	*maṣr*
card	كرتة (كروتة)	*karta (kuruuta)*
to carry (away)	شال	*saal*
certainly	امال	*ummaal*
to come	جه	*gih*
come!	تعالى	*ta9aala*
come on!	يللى	*yalla*
to confuse	لخبط	*laxbaṭ*
daily	يوماتي	*yomaati*
to do a favor	عمل معروف	*9amal ma9ruuf*
don't do that!	اوعى	*iw9a*
drinking glass	كباية	*kubbaaya*
early	بدري	*badri*
Egypt	مصر	*maṣr*
elevator	اسانسير	*asansiir*
else	كمان، تاني، غير كدا	*kamaan, taani, ɣeer kida*
enough	بس	*bass*
enough then!	خلاص	*xalaaṣ*
excellent!	عال	*9aal*
face	وش	*wišš*
first	اولاني	*awwalaani*
for	عشان، علشان	*9ašaan, 9alašaan*
for free	ببلاش	*bi-balaaš*
foreigner (mostly for Westerners)	خواجة (ات)	*xawaaga (-aat)*
forget it!	بلاش	*balaaš*
from where?	منين	*mineen*
girl	بت ، بنت	*bit, bint*
to give	أدى	*'adda*
give!	جيب ، هات	*giib, haat*
glass (material)	قزاز	*qizaaz*
to go	راح	*raaH*
good	كويس ، عال	*kwayyis, 9aal*
good-bye	سعيدة	*sa9iida*
gratis	ببلاش	*bi-balaaš*
half	نص	*nuṣṣ*
ham	جمبون	*jambuun*
here	هنا	*hina*
here is	اهو، اهي، اهم	*ahu, ahi, ahum*
hotel	لكندا	*lukanda*
how?	ازاي	*izzayy?*

how many, how much?	قد اية	*qadd-i-'eeh?*
husband	جوز	*gooz*
ill	عيان	*9ayyaan*
indeed	امال	*ummaal*
inner	جواني	*guwwaani*
inside	جوا	*guwwa*
instead of	بدل	*badal*
it's all the same!	زاي بعد	*zayy-i-ba9d*
lady	ست هانم	*sitt-i-haanim*
lamp	اباژرة	*abazhura*
last	اخرانى	*axiraani*
late	واخرى ، متأخر	*waxri, mit'axxar*
later, then	بعدين	*ba9deen*
to leave (s.th.)	ساب	*saab*
like, as	زاي	*zayy*
like this	كدا	*kida*
little	قليل	*qulayyil*
little bit	شوية ، حبة	*swayya, Habba*
to look	بص	*baṣṣ*
lower	تحتاني	*taHtaani*
man	راجل (رجالة)	*raagil (riggaala)*
maybe	يمكن	*yimkin*
menu	لستة اكل	*listit al-akl*
Miss	مزمزيل	*mezmezeel*
money	فلوس	*filuus*
mouth	بق	*buqq*
Mr. (to a Westerner)	مستر	*mistar*
Mrs.	ست (ـ ات)، مدام	*sitt (-aat), madaam*
narghile	جوزة	*gooza*
never mind!	معليش	*ma9leeš*
newspaper	جرنال، جرنان (جرانيل، جرانين)	*gurnaal, gurnaan (garaniil, garaniin)*
next to	جمب	*gamb*
nice	كويس	*kwayyis*
nightly	ليلاتى	*lelaati*
no	لأ	*la'(a)*
nobody, no one	ماحدش ، ولا حد، ولا واحد	*maHaddiš, wala Hadd wala waHid*
noise	دوشة ، زيطة	*dawša, zeeṭa*
nose	مناخير	*manaxiir*
not	مش	*miš*
nothing	ولا حاجة	*wala Haaga*

not yet	لسة	*lissa*
now	دا الوقتى	*dilwaqti*
occasionally	احيانا	*'aHyaanan*
okay	طيب ، ماشي	*ṭayyib, maaši*
only	بس	*bass*
orange	برتقال، برتقان	*burtuqaal, burtuqaan*
outer	براني	*barraani*
outside	بر	*barra*
pardon me?	نعم ، افندم	*na9am? efendim?*
peach	خوخة	*xuuxa*
perhaps, I wonder if	يا تارة	*ya tara*
piece, bit	حتة	*Hitta*
please	وحياتك	*wa-Hayaatak*
to push	زق	*zaqq*
to put (away)	شال	*šaal*
quietly	بشويش	*bi-šweeš*
receipt	فطورة	*faṭuura*
robe (worn by men)	جلابية	*gallabiya*
room	اوضة	*oḍa*
shall, will (future)	راح	*raaH*
sheet; wrap worn by women	ملاية	*milaaya*
shoe	جزمة (جزم)	*gazma (gizam)*
shoemaker	جزمجي	*gazmagi*
short	قصير	*quṣayyir*
sick	عيان	*9ayyaan*
slowly	بشويش	*bi-šweeš*
small	صغير	*ṣuɣayyar*
to smoke	شرب ، دخن	*šarab, daxxan*
so? then?	امال	*'ummaal?*
so, then	بقى ، يبقى	*baqa, yibqa*
so many	كدا	*kaza*
sometimes	احيانا	*'aHyaanan*
so what?	معليش	*ma9leeš*
still, not yet	لسة	*lissa*
straight	على طول	*9ala ṭuul*
table	ترابيزة	*tarabeeza*
to take	وخد	*waxad*
to take off	شال	*šaal*
taxi	تكسى (ـ يات)	*taks(i) (-yaat)*
that (subjunctive clause)	ان	*in*
that (demonstrative pronoun)	دا ، دي	*da (m.), di (f.)*
that which	اللى	*illi*
then, later	بعدين	*ba9deen*
then, so	امال، بقى ، يبقى	*'ummaal; baqa, yibqa*
there	هناك	*hinaak*

there is	فيه	*fiih*
these	دول ، دي	*dol, di*
thing	حاجة	*Haaga*
this	دا ، دي	*da (m.), di (f.)*
those	دول ، دي	*dol, di*
today	النهاردا	*en-nahaar da*
tomorrow	بكرة	*bukra*
upper	فوقانى	*foqaani*
usually	تملى	*tamalli*
very	خالص ،قوي	*xaaliṣ, qawi*
to wait	استنى	*istanna*
waiter (in a restaurant)	ريس ، جرسون	*rayyis, garsun*
to want	عايز، عاوز	*9aayiz, 9aawiz*
water	مية	*mayya*
we	احنا	*iHna*
what?	اية ؟	*'eeh?*
when?	امتى؟	*imta?*
where?	فين؟	*feen?*
which (relative pronoun)	اللي	*illi*
who (relative pronoun)	اللي	*illi*
who?	مين؟	*miin?*
why?	لية ؟	*leeh?*
wife	جوزة	*goza*
woman	ست	*sitt*
yes	ايوه ، آه	*'aywa, aah*
yesterday	امبارح	*imbaariH*
you	انت ، انت ، انتو	*'inta (m.), 'inti (f.) 'intu (pl.)*